

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

The Friday Letter

Vol. 12 No. 7

April 20, 1990

Yeutter Praises NERO

The following are excerpts from a letter from Secretary Yeutter to NERO Administrator Harold McLean and NERO employees congratulating them on their successful volunteer activities.

"Assistant Secretary Bertini has shared with me your excellent '1,000 Points of Light' volunteer initiative. Let me offer you my congratulations and my appreciation for your efforts.

"I regard your successful activity in furthering President Bush's call to volunteer action among Americans as a significant achievement.

"I would also like to congratulate and encourage those fine employees on your staff who are involved in community service. Each act of kindness is a small step toward making the world a better place for someone less fortunate. Your efforts to highlight their activities--both within your office and in their home communities--speak well of them..."

Bertini Visits Mountain Plains Region

Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini's visit to a Boulder, Colorado, senior center March 15 captured space on the front page of the city's newspaper, the Daily Camera. Coverage focused on Bertini's visit to a local senior center, noting the visit gave her a firsthand look at how Federal food programs serve elderly clients.

During her 2-day visit to MPRO, Bertini talked with seniors at an adult-day care center, ate lunch with clients at a Nutrition Program for the Elderly site, and dropped by a district food stamp certification office. Between site visits, she addressed an all-employee meeting, talked with every MPRO employee, received a briefing on program and Automated Data Processing operations, met with Colorado State Senator Claire Traylor, and conferred with the executive director of the

National Conference of State Legislatures.

-Story and photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff



MPRO Deputy Regional Administrator Forrest Moore (left) and Regional Administrator David Alspach met with Assistant Secretary Bertini to close out her 2-day visit to Denver. Bertini returns to Denver in late April to chair a 10-state welfare commissioners meeting.

FNS Celebrates Black History Month

To honor the achievement and memory of black Americans, this year's theme was "The Father of Black History: Carter G. Woodson, A Living Legacy."

The headquarters kickoff event featured Dr. Russell L. Adams, chairman of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. Adams presented some background on Woodson and discussed several events in his own life that paralleled the history of blacks in America.



African-American fashions were featured as Darlene Bryant of Management (left), Floyd Miles of the Office of Analysis and Evaluation, and Brenda Bryant of the Civil Rights Division posed in dress reflective of their heritage.



Edith Buffalow of Ramee Arts and Imports, displayed selected artwork, and Steven Lewis, owner/curator, Lewis and Blalock Collection, contributed black memorabilia from his private collection (right).

The annual potluck luncheon capped the event. Selecting among the various dishes are left to right Deputy Assistant Secretary Birge Watkins; Dick Thaxton, acting director, Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Information; and Estelle Gross, Personnel Division.



Administrator Betty Jo Nelsen joined in the luncheon as Belinda Myers of the Food Stamp Program field office described the types of dishes.



NERO

NERO Administrator Harold McLean (right) thanks Louis A. Elisa, president of the Boston NAACP, for his contribution to NERO's celebration of Black History Month. An educational display of black literature, biographical sketches, and black history factsheets also was contributed to and enjoyed by NERO employees.



Regional employees pose outside the restored boyhood home of Martin Luther King Jr. at the end of a bus trip down Atlanta's historic Auburn Avenue. The tour also included the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change and a visit to Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King and his father preached.

MARO

MARO's observance included Part II of "Eyes on the Prize," a movie series documenting the journey of black Americans seeking justice, power, and identity since the mid 1960's. Another activity was a photo-identity contest of famous black contributors to United States history. Several guest speakers were also a part of the month's activities.



Cochairperson Davenport, Conrad, South Carolina Department of Human Resources Commissioner James L. Solomon, and guest speaker Dr. Moses L. Norman pause for a photo at the grand finale luncheon.

SERO

SERO Administrator Virgil Conrad (left) presents a plaque to Dr. Anne W. Watts at a tribute to Carter G. Woodson. Watts, an English professor at Morehouse College in Atlanta and guest speaker at the Black History Month ceremony, spoke about the importance of blacks to world and United States history. Sharing the moment are co-chairpersons Rosie Daugherty, Financial Management; and Leo Davenport, Food Stamp Program.



MWRO

This year's MWRO celebration provided both food for thought and sustenance. Special events and activities included a film on the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King and an insightful lecture on Carter G. Woodson by Reverend George Reddick, vice president-at-large of Operation Push. A delicious soul food feast was devoured at Chicago's Soul Queen restaurant, followed by a tour of the DuSable Museum of African-American History.



SWRO

At one of SWRO's events, (left to right) Regional Administrator Gene Dickey, Texas State Senator Eddie Bernice Johnson, SWRO Food Stamp Director Don Arnette, and Mary Compton, from a local university, join in singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Johnson spoke to a crowd of approximately 100 employees urging them to always strive "for what is real, right, and fair for all people." And, for our nation's children, to "recognize the value of education and make it a priority...and put prisons out of business." Compton gave a dramatic reading of Langston Hughes' poem "The Negro Mother."



Other activities included speaker Dr. Wright Lassiter, Dallas El Centro College president; films; and an art display.

MPRO

MPRO employees joined Denver General Accounting Office staff to celebrate Black History Month with an outstanding agenda of speakers, exhibits, and films. Colorado State Senator Regis Groff gave a spirited address. Other speakers included Denver District Attorney Norm Early, basketball star Alex English of the Denver Nuggets, and Leza Gooden, regional commissioner of Social Security.

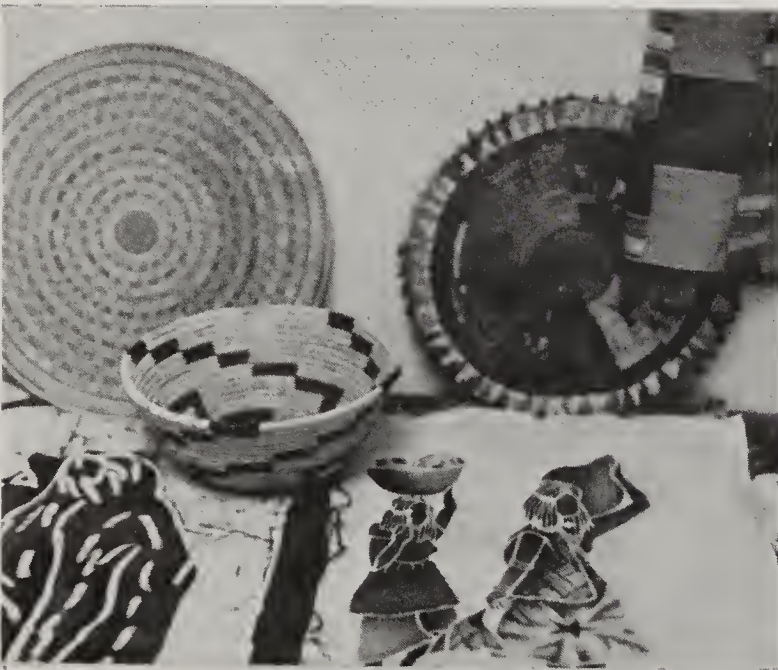
WRO

In addition to African stories, films on the civil rights movement, and a lecture on Carter G. Woodson, WRO's black history committee arranged for seven volunteers who served in the Peace Corps to discuss various aspects of African culture.

Jo Ann Buckner (next page) of WRO Food Distribution Division demonstrated paying homage to ancestors during a Ghana infant naming ceremony. The infant's parents are played by Keith McNeil, head of the committee, and Renee Warren.



Baskets, batiks, and milk bowl covers were among the African crafts displayed at WRO.



Kansas Computerizes Statewide

Kansas has completed a statewide \$22 million welfare computer system, which replaces a stand-alone computer system. The Comprehensive Automated Eligibility and Child Support Enforcement System (CAECSES) was designed to decrease paperwork and improve the integrity of child support, Aid to Families with

Dependent Children, Medicaid, and Food Stamp Programs. One form now takes the place of several repetitive forms for clients. CAECSES collects data to determine eligibility and benefit amount for various assistance programs. It stores overclaims along with amounts owed and paid, and prints quarterly reports.

Total cost for CAECSES was about \$22 million; approximately \$4.4 million for planning and installation of the system will be paid by FNS.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Girl Scout Troop Visits MARO

Swiveling around in chairs much too big for them and swinging feet to and fro, several small persons conducted an informational meeting with MARO Administrator Christopher Martin.

The recent session at the regional office was an opportunity for the 16 members of the local Girl Scout troop to earn a Junior Citizen patch, which represents learning about the services that are provided by a government office.

Martin talked about all of the agency's programs. To help the children understand what a total budget is, he explained that FNS gave out the equivalent of 20,000 million-dollar bills last year to help needy people.

The girls wanted to know if the nutrition pamphlets they were given were "for keeps." The publications don't say the Scouts can't go to fast food restaurants, but they might have to limit their visits, Martin joked.

The fourth- and fifth-graders also toured the computer facility where Bob Speary of Information Resources Management explained how FNS collects and uses data.

-Story by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

Are You Prepared for Crime?

As part of the Women's History Month celebration, the Federal Women's Program at headquarters recently sponsored a seminar dealing with crime. "We don't think about ourselves as possibly becoming victims," said Marie Benoit our enlightening and entertaining speaker from Citizens Against Crime. "We want to believe it won't happen to us."

Benoit talked about assault crimes (at home/outside of the home) and what precautions one should take. At home, some key defenses are: (1) increasing the risk factor by installing devices to slow down a criminal's access time; (2) giving the illusion that someone is home by creating noise from a radio or TV; (3) installing lights (automatic timers/outside lighting); and (4) leaving your home without confronting the criminal, if possible. If you are trapped, have a safety protection plan.

Outside the home, prevent surprise attacks by being alert, having your keys ready, checking and locking your car, keeping a reflective "call police" sign in the car, and carrying a non-lethal, military strength CS tear gas.

If you are confronted, scream "fire" to attract quick attention, and run toward light and people.

If physical contact is made, ask, "what do you want?"; don't react physically until you know whether it is a property or violent crime. In a rape situation, buy some time to possibly get away--startle attacker, catch him off guard. Try to incapacitate with speed and surprise if talking doesn't work.

When fighting is necessary, make sure you select a weapon you know how to use. Experts recommend CS tear gas.



Marie Benoit from Citizens Against Crime demonstrates the effect CS tear gas has when spraying into a styrofoam cup.



Benoit demonstrates a speed-and-surprise eye-gouging on unsuspecting attacker Jack Patton.

-Story by Mary Kennedy
Photos by Linda Boling
Public Information Staff

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of January with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Jan. 1989</u>	<u>Dec. 1989</u>	<u>Jan. 1990</u>	<u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>				
People participating (mil.)	18.8	19.4	19.7	
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	973.4	1,160.6	1,158.6	
Average bonus per person	\$ 51.81	\$ 59.96	\$ 58.75	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,075.2	1,274.7	1,272.7	
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	91.5	91.3	91.3	
Children participating (mil.)	24.0	24.2	23.9	
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.3	11.5	11.3	
Percentage of lunches served free	40.0	40.3	40.2	
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.8	6.9	6.9	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	388.6	297.8	412.7	
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	40.0	42.8	42.8	
Children participating (mil.)	3.7	4.0	3.8	
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	86.8	87.0	86.2	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	51.7	43.0	59.3	
<u>Child and Adult Care Food Program:</u>				
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	39.8	35.2	39.3	
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	33.4	34.5	35.0	
Percentage of all meals served free	79.0	79.9	79.5	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	57.9	58.8	62.4	
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>				
People participating (mil.)	4.0	4.4	4.5	
Food cost (\$ mil.)	122.7	133.2	139.4	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	153.8	168.5	178.1	
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>				
People participating (thous.)	225.8	268.3	286.2	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.0	5.8	5.7	
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>				
Number of projects in operation	108	109	109	
People participating (thous.)	141.9	135.8	142.3	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	5.1	4.6	4.8	
<u>Total USDA Food Donations (All Programs):</u>				
Entitlement Foods (\$ mil.)	85.2	101.5	88.5	
Bonus Foods (\$ mil.)	47.6	20.1	26.8	
Temporary Emergency Food Assistance (TEFAP) ..	16.6	16.9	18.4	

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of March 22, 1990.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Food Prog. Admin. Spec. (A)	(A)	GS-0120	5/7	05/01/90	90-B	FNS-N
o Math. Statistician	(A)	GS-1529	9/12	05/21/90	90-H-23*	HNIS
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	11/12	04/30/90	90-H-40*	HNIS
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	11/12	04/30/90	90-H-63	HNIS
o Home Economist	(A)	GS-0493	9/11	04/30/90	90-H-67	HNIS
o Writer-Editor	(A)	GS-1082	9/12	04/30/90	90-69	OGAPI
o Comp. Prog. Analyst	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0334	12	04/30/90	90-70	IRMD
o Comp. Sys. Analyst	(FNS-N)	GM-0334	13	04/30/90	90-71	IRMD
o Statistician	(A)	GS-1530	7/9	05/29/90	90-H-71	HNIS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-0318	5/6	05/07/90	90-72	PDD
o Food Program Spec. (FNS-HQ)	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0120	12	05/07/90	90-73	FDD
o Food Program Spec. (A)	(A)	GS-0120	12	05/07/90	90-73A	FDD

Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
PDD - Program Development Division
FDD - Food Distribution Division
OGAPI- Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Information
IRMD - Information Resources Management Division

* - Reannouncement

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
(FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition Service-Nationwide
(FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service-Hdqtrs.



Come to the Health Fair!

When: May 3

Where: POC Patio

Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22, 1990

**Agriculture
Cares**



United States Department
of Agriculture,
a Growing Partnership
with Our Environment